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	Contact: Michele Sauter, Sauterm1@michigan.gov	
	Originating Office: Division of Continuous Quality Improvement	
	Subject/Title: Federal Report on Caseworker-Child Visits	
	Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS Child Welfare Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS County Directors <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Services Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Field Operations </div> <div style="width: 35%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BCAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWTI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SACWIS </div> </div>	

Each year Michigan reports information regarding caseworker visits with children to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The Child and Family Services Review data show a strong association between the quality and frequency of caseworker visits with children and increased safety.

DHS just completed the comprehensive review of 419 randomly selected cases to evaluate caseworker visits for FY 2012 Federal reporting. We are pleased to report that in this sample, **96.4 percent** of the children were visited at least once each calendar month, which exceeds the Federal standard of 90 percent. Michigan also exceeded the Federal goal that at least 50 percent of the total number of monthly caseworker-child visits must occur in the child's residence by reaching **85.3 percent**.

Local DHS offices and private agency partners should be very proud of not only reaching but exceeding these federally established goals. While there is continued need for improvement, please take a moment to congratulate yourself and your partners on prioritizing the safety and well-being of children by ensuring that face to face visits are being completed. The provision of child welfare services in Michigan continues to improve due to your hard work and dedication!

Michigan will continue to focus efforts on achieving completion of 100 percent of caseworker-child visits (Federal goal will continue to be 90 percent). Ways that we can immediately improve our performance include the following:

- All caseworker visits must be completed as required per DHS policy FOM 722-6.
- Caseworker-child visits must be completed on all children who are in foster care, regardless of their goal.
 - Example 1: Children who are placed in a pre-adoptive home with a goal of adoption, but for whom the adoption has not been finalized, must still be visited with the frequency established in DHS policy.
 - Example 2: Children who are transferred from one child placing agency (CPA) to another, or who have a change in assigned caseworker, must still be visited with the frequency established in DHS policy.
- Caseworker-child visits must be documented accurately in SWSS FAJ or SWSS Web to be recorded properly.
 - Frequently visits recorded in SWSS did not include the caseworker as an "Involved Member".
 - Frequently caseworkers were incorrectly coded in SWSS as "Other" for the "relationship type."
- Caseworker-child visits must be entered timely in SWSS and SWSS Web to avoid the adverse impact to Michigan's data management reports and evaluation of current performance.
- Case plans and available caseworker visit reports (Info View CR=601, 602, 603, 604, 605) must be monitored routinely to address performance and/or data entry issues.